

REPORT TO THE IOWA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ANATOMICAL GIFTS

ANNUAL DONATION AND COMPLIANCE REPORT

FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2007

Submitted by

Iowa Department of Public Health

in conjunction with the

Iowa Donor Network

and the Iowa Lions Eye Bank

Introduction

Iowa is served by one organ procurement organization: Iowa Donor Network (IDN). Through a contract with the Iowa Lions Eye Bank (ILEB), the Iowa Donor Network serves as the human tissue referral agency (eyes, bone, skin, tendons and heart valves) for the state. ILEB conducts cornea recovery, evaluation, and distribution services. The organizations cooperate closely with Iowa hospitals to promote and accomplish organ, eye, and tissue donations. In 1996, the Iowa Legislature created the Anatomical Gift Public Awareness and Transplantation Fund. County treasurers seek contributions to this fund when Iowans register or renew registration on their motor vehicles. In 2004, an organ and tissue donation awareness license plate was created for Iowa motorists. A \$35 charge for the plate plus \$10 renewal fee, in addition to the normal fee, is provided to the Awareness Fund. The Anatomical Gift Public Awareness Advisory Committee advises the Iowa Department of Public Health on grants to be made from contributed funds. Iowa Code § 142C.17 requires the department, in conjunction with any statewide organ procurement organization, to submit an annual donation and compliance report.

Organs and Tissues Donors

The number of organ donors in Iowa (January 2007 to September 2007) was 44, compared to 32 for the same period last year, an increase of 27 percent. Through the same period this year, there were 264 tissue donors compared to 210 last year resulting in a 20 percent increase. Every general hospital in the state made at least one organ or tissue donation referral.

Organ and Tissue Referrals

While, as mandated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, Iowa Donor Network receives a referral call on every death in Iowa hospitals, not every referral results in a suitable organ or tissue donation. Consent for donation and medical suitability must also be considered. The 44 organ donors this year contributed 141 organs for transplantation. This is also an increase over the previous year total of 113.

Each tissue donor (on average) provides enough transplantable tissue for up to 50 people. From this year's 264 tissue donors, we can expect approximately 13,200 people will receive transplantable tissue needed for life-saving and life-enhancing procedures.

As of September 30, 2007, 3,101 referrals were made to Iowa Lions Eye Bank, compared with 2,864 for the same time period in 2006; an eight percent increase in referrals. Year to date in 2007, 523 Iowans became eye donors, compared to 417 for the same time period in 2006, a 25 percent increase in eye donations.

The Iowa Lions Eye Bank recovered 727 corneas for sight saving/restoring surgery and another 384 eyes were recovered and provided for important research into the causes of

blindness. Through September 30, 2007, 96 eyes were imported from donors in other states to provide Iowans with sight saving transplants. This is a 68 percent increase compared to last year. There is no waiting list for corneal transplants in Iowa due to the generosity of Iowans and the nationwide network of eye banks working to provide the gift of sight. Compared to 2006, there was a 42 percent increase in eye tissue donated by Iowans for transplant for the same time period in 2007, and a one percent increase in eye tissue donated for research. This year, the Iowa Lions Eye Bank implemented major quality improvement efforts as a result of participation in the national Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA) Cornea Collaborative. The Collaborative's goal is to double the tissue available for transplant in the next three years, and is beginning by sharing data and best practices from 40 participating U.S. eye banks. While major changes were not fully implemented until September 2007, the impact is already being seen in the number of families that are saying yes to donation and the number of corneas available for transplant. Still, we are not keeping up with the demand, having to import 96 corneas from donors in other states so far in 2007 and, for the first time, we have had to cancel surgeries due to the lack of tissue available for transplant. Through the EBAA Cornea Collaborative, we intend to be able to meet the needs of Iowans for sight saving transplants, as well as to assist in the U.S. and the world with sight saving services.

Medicare Rules

In August of 1998, the Health Care Financing Administration (now the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) promulgated regulations designed to increase organ and tissue donation. The rules are part of the Hospital Conditions of Participation for the Medicare and Medicaid programs. The rules require "a hospital to have an agreement with the Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) designated by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), under which the hospital will contact the OPO in a timely manner about individuals who die, or whose deaths are imminent in the hospital. The OPO will then determine each individual's medical suitability for donation. The hospital must also have an agreement with at least one tissue bank and at least one eye bank to cooperate in the retrieval, processing, preservation, storage and distribution of tissue and eyes, as long as the agreement does not interfere with organ donation. The final rule requires a hospital to ensure, in collaboration with the OPO with which it has an agreement, the family of every potential donor is informed of its option to donate organs or tissues or not to donate."

Contributions

Contributions provided through county treasurers and the license plate program to the Anatomical Gift Public Awareness and Transplantation Funds were \$60,907 in year 2007. This is \$7,422 more than provided in year 2006. This revenue represents a rate of 2.07¢ per capita (based on population of 2,943,451), up from 1.82¢ per capita in year 2006. The county treasurers, the Anatomical Gift Public Awareness Advisory Committee, the Iowa Donor Network and the Iowa Lions Eye Bank continue to explore ways to increase awareness of the contribution opportunity and contributions to the fund.

Community Grants

Payment from the Anatomical Gift Public Awareness and Transplantation Fund totaled \$43,739 in year 2007. This included public awareness activities, organ transplantation procedures and related patient costs, and support of the donor registry. Of these payments, \$83 covered administrative costs.

Donor Registry

Chapter 1052, Acts of the 2000 General Assembly authorized the director of the Department of Public Health to contract for the establishment of a statewide organ and tissue donor registry. As specified, the contract shall provide for a centralized database and automated system to make organ and tissue donor information available to family members and physicians seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day. The Iowa Donor Network (IDN) launched such a registry, www.iowadonorregistry.org on March 18, 2002. To date, more than 95,000 Iowans have registered their intentions to become organ and tissue donors upon death. Iowa Donor Network has begun working the Department of Transportation to download driver's license "yes" into the Iowa Donor Registry.

Summary

As indicated in this report, the organ and tissue donation program continues to serve a significant number of Iowans. As of November 2007, the number of citizens waiting for lifesaving organ transplants had climbed to 471. This increase over the previous period last year is due to several reasons. The University of Iowa has opened up a new lung transplant program and has hired several new transplant physicians. These actions increased the number of patients seeking transplants at the University which increased the waiting list. Efforts to increase public awareness and acceptance of organ and tissue donation must continue and be fostered by every practicing nurse, physician, social worker, paramedic, law enforcement official, hospital administrator and funeral director in Iowa. The Anatomical Gift Public Awareness Advisory Committee, the Iowa Donor Network, the Iowa Lions Eye Bank, and the IDPH will continue to promote increased organ and tissue donation and explore ways to increase public awareness of the opportunity to donate organs and tissues.